those of other developing countries should always be kept in view.

1907. [*Transferred to the 13th August,* 1986.]

Banning of production and use of asbestos

1908. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister fo LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ILO has called for the banning of production and use of asbestos as it is proved to be a health hazard causing lung cancer; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The International Labour Conference at its 72nd Session, held in June, 1986, adopted a Convention and Recommendation on safety in the use of Asbestos. The Convention and the Recommendation, *inter alia,* provide for prohibition of use of Crocidolite (a variety of asbestos). Further action in this regard can be taken only on receipt of the authenticated version of the Convention and Recommendation.

Loan given by the public financial institutions for construction of hotels

1909. SHRI THANGABAALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of the public financial institutions has been locked up in the incomplete hotels meant to be completed for Asiad '82 in the private and public sector; and

(b) how many times the loans have been rescheduled and what is the default on interest position in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) IFCI has reported that there are no Asiad linked hotel projects in the Public Sector that remain to be completed. In Private Sector there are three hotel projects which were originally envisaged to be completed for Asiad '82 but which are still under implementation. The total outstanding loan of Public Financial Institutions in respect of these projects is Rs. 38.08 crores as on 31st May, 1986.

(b) The reschedulement of loan was done only once in all the three projects. The default in payment of interest is only in one case, amounting to Rs. 158.77 lakhs as on 31st May, 1986.

Rubber plantation

1910. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified new areas for the plantation of rubber in the country;

(b) if so, what are the States where rubber plantation has been started; and

(c) the areas which are favourable for rubber plantation in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides new rubber plantation being undertaken in traditional States like Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, it has been undertaken in non-traditional region like Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar etc.

(c) In Orissa extensive areas in the Districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Puri, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam and Koraput are reportedly favourable for rubber plantation.

Financial assistance to small scale industries in Orissa

1911. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the role of commercial banks in Orissa in financing working capital needs of small scale industries is extremely unsatisfactory;

(b) whether the commercial banks have not changed their attitude despite the fact that RBI has issued instructions to them to play a better role in financing the small scale industries; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to make available adequate finance to the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir. The advances by all scheduled commercial banks to Small Scale Industrial Units in Orissa have increased from Rs. 47.22 crores in December, 1982 to Rs. 91.03 crores in June, 1985. The number of units assisted during the same period has increased from 47051 to 61400 indicating that the commercial banks have played their role quite satisfactorily.

(b) and (c) Under the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank, special consideration has to be given by the banks to the credit needs of the priority sector borrowers which includes SSIs. The commercial banks are required to abide by the instructions issued by RBI from time to time. Progress made by commercial banks in extending credit to priority sector is constantly reviewed at district and state level forums.

Import of white cement under OGL

1912. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta High Court has held that the import of white cement under O.G.L. during policy period 1985 was proper and did not violate the provisions of relevant import policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Union of India was one of the respondents in the above case;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Union of India has not preferred any appeal against the said judgement; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that inspite of the above judgement of the Calcutta High Court, the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has initiated proceedings against the importers of the above item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Taking over of control of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company by NICCO Group

1913. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NICCO Group has taken over the effective control of Peerless General